



Briefing for the National Association of State Election Directors

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NIST “Help America Vote Act” Mandates

- Chair Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC)
- Provide technical support to TGDC in the development of voluntary voting system guidelines including:
 - Security
 - Methods to detect and prevent fraud
 - Human factors, including technologies for individuals with disabilities
- Write and submit a human factors report to Congress
- Conduct an evaluation of independent, non-federal testing laboratories:
 - “Submit to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) a list of those laboratories the Director proposes to be accredited to carry out the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting systems”



NIST HAVA Milestones

- December 2003: Held 1st *Symposium on Increasing Trust and Confidence in Voting Systems* at NIST
- April 2004: Delivered Report to Congress: *Improving the Usability and Accessibility of Voting Systems and Products* in consultation with EAC
- July 2004: Chaired 1st plenary session of TGDC - adopted work plan
- August 2004: Hosted Laboratory Accreditation Workshop at NIST
- September 2004: Conducted TGDC public hearings to gather data and information on human factors, privacy, computer security, transparency, core requirements and testing of voting systems
- October 2004: Posted voting software “hashes” for use by state and local election officials at National Software Reference Library Web Site:
<http://www.nsrl.nist.gov/votedata.html>
- October-December 2004: Conducted 17 TGDC Subcommittee teleconferences



NIST HAVA 2005 Milestones and Goals

- January 2005: Held second plenary session of TGDC, adopted 31 resolutions defining NIST technical guidance tasks
- January 2005: Entered into formal MOU with EAC
- February-March 2005: Complete technical guidance for most critical tasks in TGDC resolutions to affect voluntary voting system standards for the 2006 Election Cycle
- April 2005: Initial TGDC recommendations for voting system standards forwarded to EAC
- April 2005: Begin accepting applications for National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP)
- August 2005: Complete second round of technical guidance tasks in TGDC resolutions
- November 2005: Complete third round of technical guidance tasks in TGDC resolutions



NIST/TGDC Committee Structure & Coordination

- TGDC resolution (*July '04*) established 3 subcommittees to gather and analyze information:
 - Security and Transparency
 - Human Factors and Privacy
 - Core Requirements and Testing
- Subcommittees don't vote or seek consensus
- Subcommittees are interdisciplinary and coordination is essential
- Subcommittees adhere to common organizational framework for standards development
- Subcommittees meet at least every two weeks via teleconference
 - NIST voting team staff participates in teleconferences
 - Public provided access to teleconferences via the Internet
- NIST and subcommittee members conduct occasional face to face meetings
- Research and coordination done in-between subcommittee meetings



TGDC Committee Structure & Coordination

- Resolutions adopted at TGDC Plenary Sessions by consensus
- Future plenary TGDC sessions planned for March 2005 and April 2005
- Initial recommendations for voluntary voting system guidelines will be delivered to the Election Assistance Commission after the April 2005 TGDC meeting.



Strategy for Prioritizing Resolutions

- Highest priority is to provide guidance to states in time for the 2006 election cycle
- Focus is on:
 - Improving the voting system standards (e.g., filling in the gaps) to address security, human factors and other immediate needs (i.e., VVPAT)
 - Correcting errors in the voting system standards
 - Ensuring that the installed software is the same as the tested software



Strategy for Publication

- To affect 2006 election cycle, guidance needs to be available in April
- Focus in April deliverable will be an addendum that augments and corrects the current VSS
- Draft for a new voting standard, that builds upon the 2002 VSS, will be developed in parallel



Priority of Resolutions- Group 1

- Highest priority will be assigned to April addendum. It will include:
 - VVPAT including requirements for attaching printers
 - Use of wireless technology
 - Software distribution, setup, and documentation, including the use of the NSRL
 - Accessibility and usability, based on HAVA Section 301
 - Interim conformance clause
 - Glossary



Priority of Resolutions – Group 2

- Recommendations for the next edition of the VSS
- Incorporates and enhances material developed in the addendum to the 2002 VSS and work on reorganizing and re-writing requirements to make them more precise and testable
- Areas include:
 - COTS approach
 - Analysis of software coding standards
 - Applicability of computer security FIPS to voting
 - Computer security
 - Improved human factors and accessibility
 - Strategy for addressing multiple representation of ballots
 - Testing methodology



Priority of Resolutions – Group 3

- These include all resolutions passed by the TGDC that are not included in Groups 1 and 2
- They will be addressed after April and include:
 - Usability of the standards
 - Common ballot format specifications
 - Quality management standards
 - Maintenance of the VSS
 - Sharing information and de-qualification of voting systems
 - Assessment papers on recommendation for future work



NIST /TGDC Information Resources

- Public web page at: vote.nist.gov
- Public comment on TGDC process accepted at: voting@nist.gov
- Public Comment Posted at: <http://vote.nist.gov/ECPosStat.htm>
- TGDC plenary session webcasts: <http://www.eastbaymedia.com/tgdc-webcast/>
- TGDC Subcommittee Meeting Teleconferences:
<http://vote.nist.gov/HearingsandTranscripts.htm>
- National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program:
<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/whatsnew.htm>
- National Software Reference Library:
<http://www.nsrl.nist.gov/vote.html>
- TGDC Adopted Resolutions:
<http://vote.nist.gov/TGDCresolutions0118unt.pdf>



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